

Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISORS CRAFT REFORM OF MEDICAL EXAMINER PROCEDURE FOLLOWING DEREK WILLIAMS POLICE CUSTODY DEATH CASE

Legislation set for Committee, Board review, approval in the October cycle

Milwaukee – Milwaukee County Board Supervisor Russell W. Stamper II of District 5 and Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. of District 1 have co-authored legislation that revamps policy of the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office related to police custody deaths. The legislation is cosponsored by Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic and Supervisors David Bowen of District 10, Nikiya Q. Harris of District 2, Willie Johnson, Jr. of District 13 and Michael Mayo, Sr. of District 7.

The legislation follows the Supervisors' meeting with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner on Friday, September 28, 2012.

Additionally, the Supervisors met with the Milwaukee County District Attorney today, Tuesday, October 2, 2012. The District Attorney also announced today the appointment of a special prosecutor in the Derek Williams' case.

"I thank my colleagues on the Milwaukee County Board for their swift action and support in this matter," said Supervisor Stamper. "I also thank Medical Examiner Brian L. Peterson, M.D., and District Attorney John T. Chisholm for being accessible upon our request and for providing information that helps us develop sound, meaningful change to Milwaukee County Medical Examiner policy."

The revised policy features several key changes, including: The Medical Examiner or staff investigator must request any and all reports available from known or involved agencies; The Medical Examiner or staff investigator must also request and all available audio or video recordings; and the Medical Examiner or staff investigator must documents this requests, receipt/denial or status of all reports and recordings.

The Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee is set to vote on the legislation and to invite the Chief Medical Examiner to provide insight publicly at its October meeting.